

# THE OUTPOST IN THE SKY.

THE outpost in the sky is a feature of modern warfare. It sounds strange to speak of picketing the heavens and patrolling the empyrean, but such is the way in which the British are watching Boer operations in South Africa at the present time.

Balloons, it is true, are not altogether new in warfare. They were used about Paris during the Franco-Prussian war, and in fact had been put to a test during our own civil war. A balloon also figured in the capture of Santiago, but as a general thing it must be confessed that the kite and balloon corps was never looked upon as a very valuable adjunct to an army.

It was not until the invention of wireless telegraphy that military ballooning became a valuable auxiliary to the advance guard of an army. This wonderful discovery brought about the possibility for a new system of reconnoitering, and England has shown herself to be up to date by having no less than 20 war balloons at the Cape. Ten of these are in Natal and ten distributed at other points. These balloons are made of gold beater's skin and have proved quite impermeable, having kept up six months at Aldershot without losing their lifting power.

The British have already put their balloons to actual use in observing the operations of the Boers and have found them particularly valuable, owing to the rough and broken nature of the country in which most of the fighting has been taking place. The most successful of these balloons in actual operation were the smaller class, with a capacity of 11,000 cubic feet of gas and able to soar up into the clouds with two men and all the necessary equip-

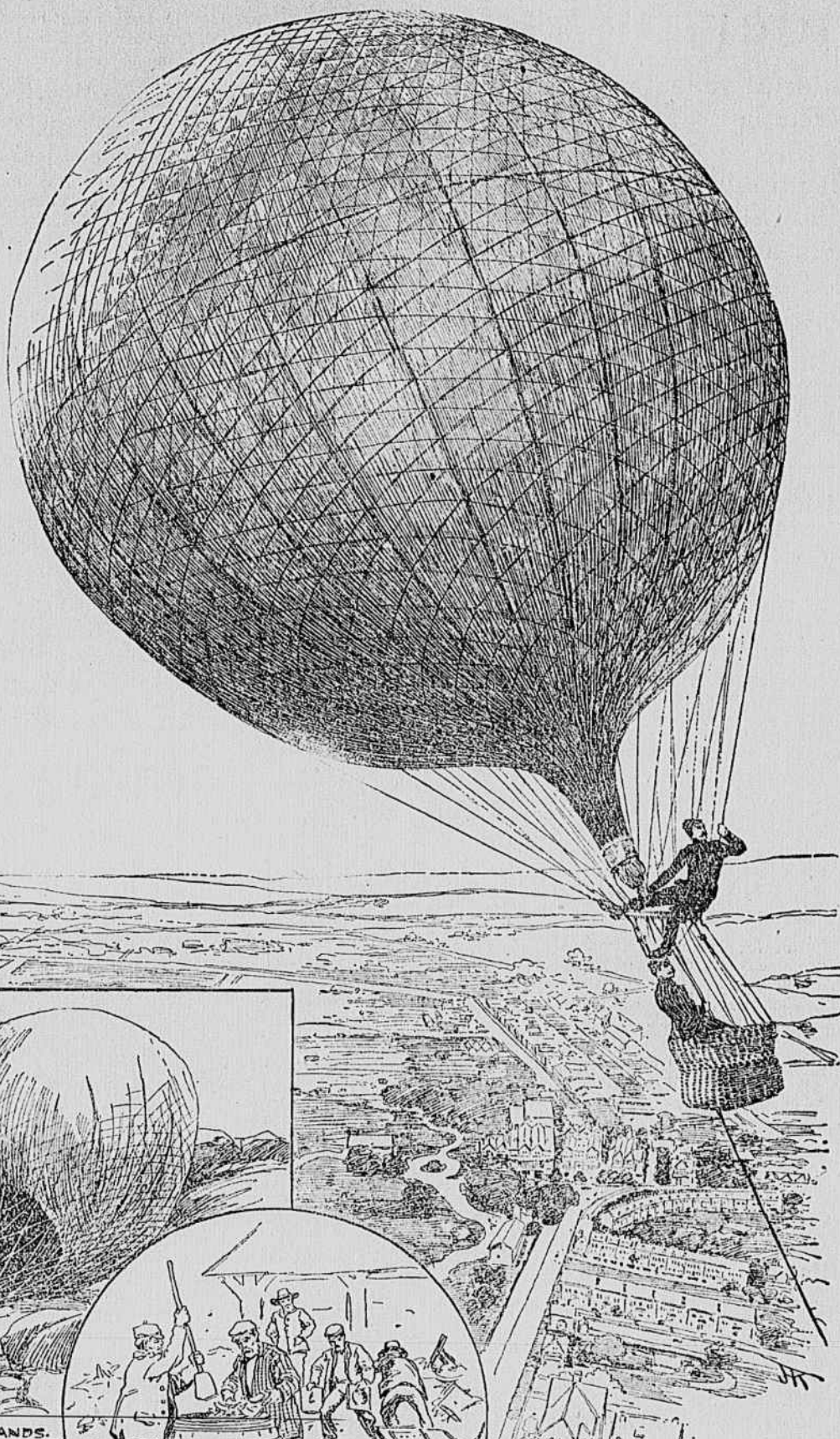
ment. Among the apparatus in the car, of course, a Marconi instrument, by means of which messages are sent back to headquarters, the receiver being a small captive balloon which can be towed about at will by one man.

Where the larger class of balloon has been used, a smaller one has usually been made to act as a tender, though as a general rule it has been found that the smaller balloon has been the most satisfactory in every way, being more easily handled when inflated, less trouble to transport and fill with gas and more easily recovered when once sent up.

The operation of these new aerial war engines in South Africa is looked after by the special balloon section of the royal engineers. For months before war broke out at the lower end of the dark continent the English military officials had been busily experimenting with the balloon as a war instrument at Aldershot. Here they made many exhaust-

Such work as picketing the sky naturally calls for men of the utmost daring and courage. Such a picket practically takes his life into his own hands when he once steps into his little car and is hurried up among the clouds to hang dangerously over the camp of

glasses look calmly down into the enemy's camp or along their lines, observe every movement that is being made and telegraph the information back to the firing line. When this is done, and his observations have all been made, the trouble of the balloon picket



TELEGRAPHING INFORMATION.

IN THE ENEMY'S HANDS.

ZINC-SCRAPS FOR BALLOON GAS.

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ive tests of the Marconi system and its adaptability to actual warfare. These experiments were eminently successful, and the result was that a special balloon brigade was organized among the royal engineers for service in South Africa.

the enemy, where a chance shot or the slightest mismanagement of the apparatus by his own hand means either instant death or falling into the hands of the foe. It requires the coolest nerve to sit poised up above the earth 4,000 or 5,000 feet and with powerful field-

just begins, for it is when attempting to rejoin his forces that he has the greatest difficulties to overcome. Unless well anchored and held back the wind is likely to drive him over the enemy's lines and leave him stranded a dozen or more miles away with a few thousand foes between him and his comrades. So the life of the outpost in the sky is never an easy one. When some special gun is contrived for the destruction of his fragile airship, the dangers of this fighter who is neither landsman nor seaman will be even greater.

## Home For Which the Boers Are Fighting.



Nowadays when nothing but war pictures are being printed in connection with South Africa the accompanying illustration, from a photograph of a typical Dutch farmstead in the country where the British and the Boers are now contending one another, will be of especial interest. This quiet scene of a homely little Boer farmstead stands, in a way, for that quietness and peacefulness of life for which the Boer is today fighting so bravely while vainly struggling to ward back that restless spirit of advance and progress which the energetic outlander brought with him when he first invaded the Transvaal.

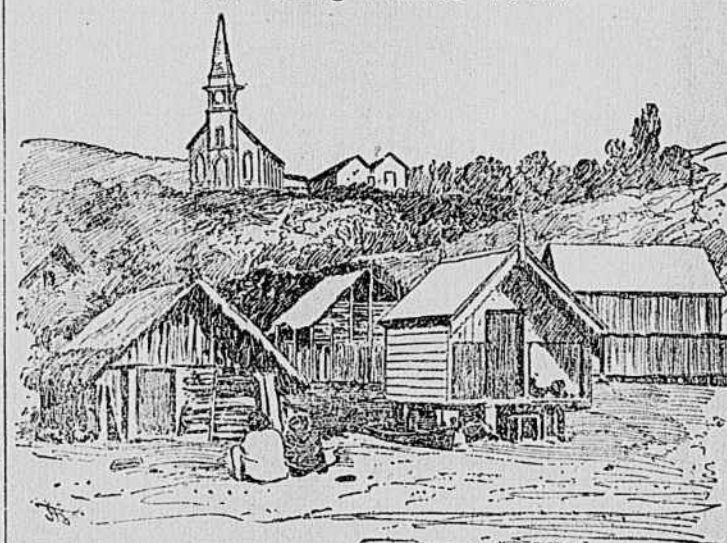
## A Curious Kitten.

Here is a kitten which is the proud possessor of 24 toes. This unique little feline is the property of Miss Rawlston, the American actress, and, besides being an anatomical curiosity, has also a claim on distinction because of its great cleverness at trick playing. This little kitten always accompanies its affectionate mistress on her many theatrical tours, and, while traveling, comfortably reposes in a well padded basket especially made for the purpose.

## WITHOUT MALE DESCENDANTS.

The Pall Mall Gazette recently printed a partial list of the great men of England of whom there are no living male descendants. Among them are Chaucer, Shakespeare, Spenser, Milton, Butler, Dryden, Pope, Swift, Addison, Cowper, Goldsmith, Dr. Johnson, Scott, Byron, Shelley, Philip Sydney, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Drake, Nelson, Sir Robert Walpole, Lord Hollingbrooke, Lord Chatham, Charles James Fox, Edmund Burke, Bacon, Newton, Locke, Sir Humphry Davy, Hume, Gibbon and Macaulay. Several of these were never married.

## An Oddly Named Town.



The traveler in New Zealand is often struck by the ridiculousness of the names which are given by the natives to many of their little mushroom towns. The accompanying picture, for instance, shows an unpretentious little burg which has to struggle along under the very august and incongruous sobriquet of "Jerusalem." Just why it was so named no one has ever been able to find out, though the New Zealanders have also a London and a Bristol.

## The Guardian of the Wounded.

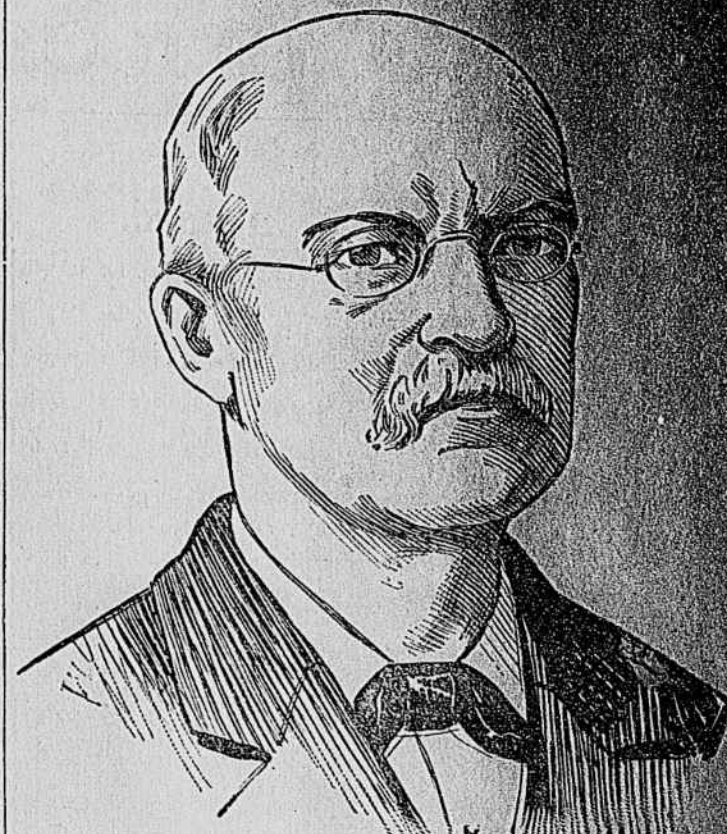
In the modern army the medical department is one of the most important. Officers go on the principle that, while hoping for the best, one must be prepared for the worst, so for this reason the army department of the English forces in South Africa has been arranged for on a plan never before known.



The medical and nursing staff is a tremendous one, though, in view of the fact that a great number of wounded have to be taken care of, it has proved none too large. The head of this staff is Surgeon General T. D. Wilson, whose many years' experience as a war doctor has well fitted him for such a responsible post. Fortunately, the climate at the seat of war is of the best, so that the wounded have a chance of recovery without those complications of fever and cholera that are so often more disastrous than the shot and shell of the enemy.

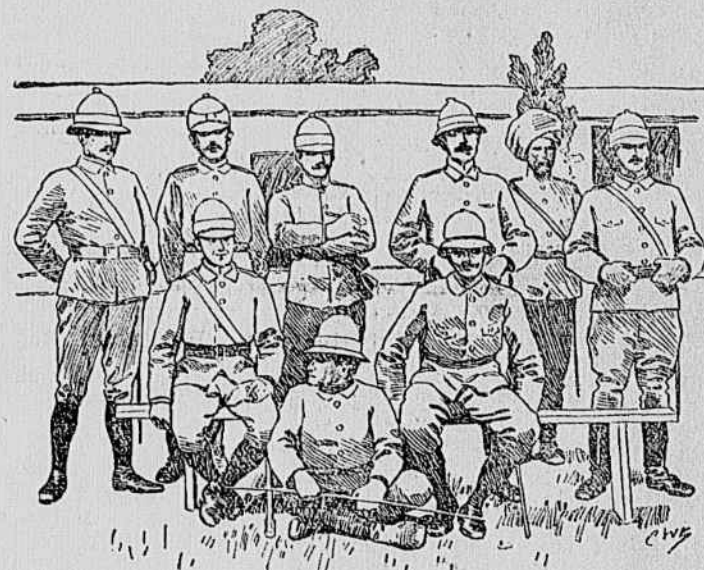
An Indiana man planted 20 acres of former marsh land in cabbage, and at present market rates he will receive \$3,000 for his crop.

## The Power Behind the Afrikaner Throne.



The power behind the throne in South African politics is Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr, the chief of the famous Dutch Afrikaner bond and the lifelong friend of President Kruger of the Transvaal. Hofmeyr sat for a number of years in the Cape house of assembly and in 1881 became a member of the executive council, showing a prevailing tendency to become a mediator between the antagonistic Dutch and English interests, though in his earlier years he had taken active part with the former in their deeds of sedition at the Cape. He is now, however, a protagonist of Dutch supremacy under the British crown. On account of his great shrewdness and power he is regarded as the "boss" of Cape Colony politics, and he it was who made the last final effort on the part of the Afrikaners for a solution of the present difficulties without resorting to the horrors of war.

## Officers Who Are After Slave Traders.



Here are the English and Portuguese officers who are at present working together in an effort to weed slave trading out of Central Africa. This expedition, among the more stirring events which have been attracting attention at the more southerly part of the dark continent, has been quite lost sight of, notwithstanding the fact that it will have an important effect in determining the destinies of the central part of Africa. The British forces are under the command of Captain Pearce, who has some 500 trained native troops, 150 Sikhs, two Maxims and two 7 pounders in his command. The Portuguese are even more strongly represented, both in infantry and artillery. The individuals whom this expedition are after are the chiefs of Mkwamba, Zarafi and Mataka, all notorious slave traders.

## An Extensive Sunshade.

The largest straw hat ever made is shown in the accompanying illustration. This hat, of course, was not manufactured for wear, though if the crown had been made as large as the rim there



are one or two young American authors who might easily show a head that could fill it. The past summer has demonstrated that the once abominated "straw" has become a fixture in both America and Europe. Londoners, even going so far in their adoration of the straw article of headgear as to have top hats manufactured of it. In fact, during the past hot season in England the straw "till" sprang into popular favor at once, and will probably reappear next summer.

## The New Cuban Stamp.

The handsomest of the newly issued series of postage stamps of Cuba is the 2 centavostamp, a picture of which is here-with produced. The design represents a group of palm trees, and experienced philatelists are of the opinion that it is one of the most attractive stamps yet issued on the island. The designs of other denominations in the same issue are equally pleasing.



## Great Britain's Colonial Secretary.



The one man who might be said to be responsible for the South African war is the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the colonial secretary of Great Britain whose latest and best portrait is herewith shown. Mr. Chamberlain's ways have been an imperialist of the most enthusiastic kind. He was Mr. Gladstone's cabinet "being the way in which John Lubbock, the first member of the Birmingham Debating society, he began to express views very advanced for those days. When, over a year ago, Mr. Chamberlain became the colonial secretary, these early imperialist notions were forgotten. Today it is that imperialistic dream of a world empire which is the raison d'être of the war against those two little states which frustrated the territorial plans of the British colonial secretary.